

5-1993

Apex : A Point of Departure, Vol.2, No.04 (May 1993)


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Naomi Falcone

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Recommended Citation

Dragon, Annette; Falcone, Naomi; Matthews, Diane; and Winter, Madeleine, "Apex : A Point of Departure, Vol.2, No.04 (May 1993)" (1993). *APEX*. 16.
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BOY GEORGE, HE'S GAY!

New York (1/11) - Pop singer Boy George is quoted in the current issue of *Newsweek* as saying he had lied about being bisexual, and that he is in fact gay. "I used to say I was bisexual, which is a lie, and I felt really bad about it." The singer said he "always wanted to be a great songwriter, but a gay songwriter, who can write gay love songs that really affect people."

COLORADO POISON

Denver (1/11) - Anti-gay fliers stating "Death Penalty for homosexuals is prescribed in the Bible" have begun appearing in Denver and Colorado Springs and are being distributed by an organization apparently linked with the Ku Klux Klan. The fliers, distributed by a group calling itself S.T.R.A.I.G.H.T. (Society to Remove All Immoral Gross Homosexual Trash), have shown up on auto windshields in both cities, including cars parked near a popular gay bar in Denver. S.T.R.A.I.G.H.T.'s fliers include the motto, "Working for Fag-Free America." Colorado's newly elected U.S. Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell said, "I condemn this vicious trash in the strongest terms possible and call upon the people...and the state of Colorado to vehemently reject this." Rights activists say the posters are another result of the brutal anti-gay campaign that led to the November passage of Amendment 2 in the state.

Quote of the Month:

If you don't like the news, go out and make some of your own. S. Nisker.

TEEN LATEX REBELS GAIN GROUND

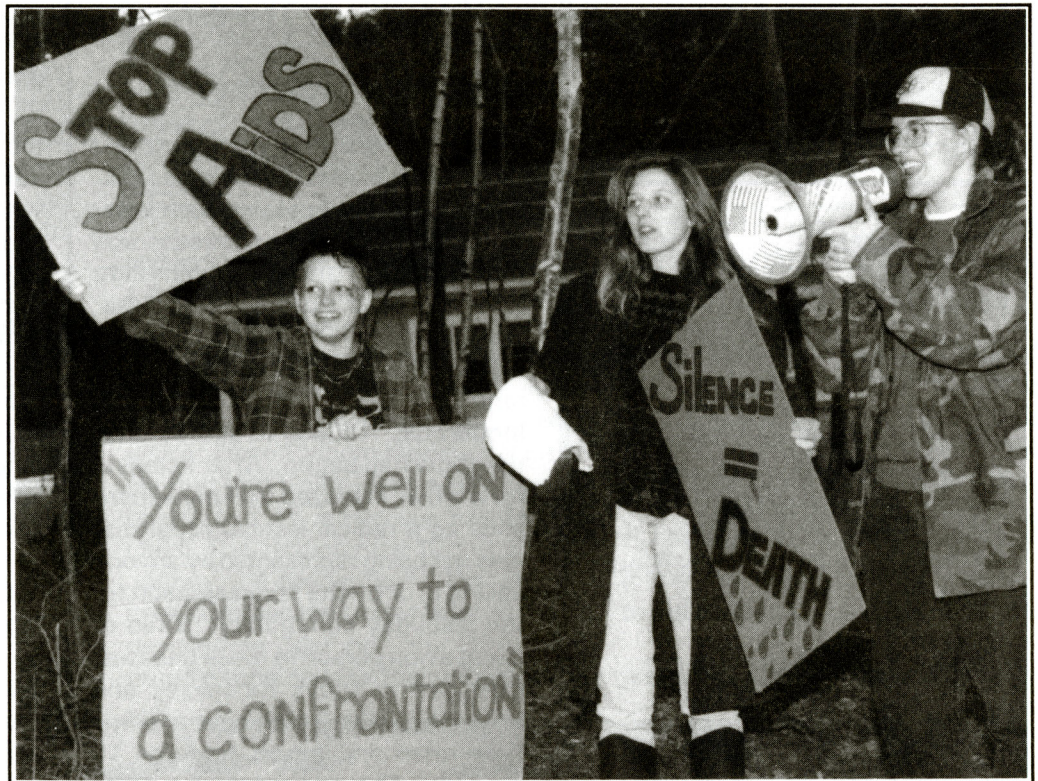


photo by Annette Dragon

TAPA takes on Thornton

by Bee Bell

Mt. Desert Island High School, in the second week of April, became Maine's first high school to decide to distribute condoms.

Students at MDI High consolidated local support for condoms in schools, for which the school board voted unanimously on 4/12. Matthew Smith, a gay man with HIV infection and a 1984 graduate of MDI, returned to the high school last spring to speak about his experience with HIV and unprotected sex. Smith described the genesis of the students' victory: "Peer support groups of juniors and seniors became very involved in this issue because they felt that students were not going to use condoms if they weren't free or weren't available - plus there was the stigma of buying a condom at a local neighborhood store."

Over 9000 teens have AIDS in this country - more have HIV. Seventy percent of high school seniors nationally, and 60 to 70% in most Maine schools, have had sex. According to a US congressional panel on teen AIDS, less than half of females and only 55% of males report using condoms "at first intercourse." We don't know about teen dykes' use of latex, since the government does not study lesbian health, but recent studies in New York and California show that lesbians make up several per cent of female AIDS cases and 9% of female HIV cases. Queer male teens have even higher rates of HIV infection than gay and bisexual men in their 20s, and are "significantly more likely than older men" to report unprotected sex.

More LATEX ➤ page 7

The Collective

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T.A.

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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Phoenix Press is a collectively run organization whose purpose is to build and empower our community by providing positive lesbian/gay images. We will be a forum for the exchange of ideas through debate and discussion. The collective will work to reflect the political and social diversity of our community.

SUBMISSIONS

All submissions should be typed and double-spaced if at all possible. Please include your name and phone number in case we have any questions. Your name will be withheld at your request, but any material received without a contact name or number will not be published. Submissions *must* be received by the 20th of each month. Thank you for your contributions.

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LETTERS...

Dear APEX,

In reference to the letter in the April 1993 issue saying that *GLT* folded in part because "you never hear from the people who do appreciate what you're trying to do with the rag," I thought I'd better go on record as saying I appreciate *APEX*—especially Thighmaster, which is brilliant, and Bee Bell's commentaries. Keep up the good work!

Chris Reed

Recently MPBN produced a call in/debate about lesbian gay rights legislation. In favor of passing such legislation, and acting as spokesperson for the lesbian and gay community was Larry Bliss, a professional class, white gay man. Speaking against the legislation was Paul Madore, an ignorant xian bigot. Barbara Carriddi moderated. I tuned in shortly after the show had begun. After listening for a while, i realized that my experience as a radical lesbian separatist was not being represented by anyone calling in or by the spokesperson for the lesbi/gay community. Tired of being a non person in these debates, i decided to speak for myself and invest in a toll call to Bangor at prime time rates and be on hold for 15 minutes. The arguments that were being put forward in favor of passing lesbigay rights legislation were: "We're not really a threat," "We're just like you," "We share your values," "We can't help it, we were born this way" (and are victims of our sexuality). None of these arguments speak for me. They serve not only to marginalize me, they deny my existence. So i called and stated that

i was a lesbian and had some different things to say from the other advocates i had been hearing. I said that i choose to be a lesbian, that it is a choice any wombyn can make at any time of her life. It's not a question of "I can't help it, I was born this way." I can and have "helped it," i was born a wombyn and have chosen to be a lesbian, and am willing to help other wombyn make that choice, too. (It is important to me to recruit and help hetera wombyn become lesbians because i think it is the best choice any wombyn can make for herself.) I also said that despite the claims of many lesbigay rights advocates, we are not all "just like you." I and many other radical dykes actually work to destroy the heteropatriarchy and all of the systems that create it, especially the family and family values. (The family being the basic structure used to perpetuate the heteropatriarchy, wherein wombyn and girls have no value and are regularly raped, beaten, humiliated, tortured and killed.) I also mentioned that i had raised two daughters and one chooses to be lesbian and one chooses to be het, and that i am the product of a het family. Paul Madore responded first by saying "We knew it all along, they are choosing to be that way." He proceeded to make fun of the word "heteropatriarchy" without addressing the concept. Barbara Carriddi giggled. Larry Bliss said "I can't believe anyone would choose to live a life of fear, pain, lies and humiliation if they didn't have to, I can't believe anyone would make that choice." He went on for several minutes equating being lesbian to living a life of pain and degradation.

I was enraged when i heard him deny the truth of my life and my choices



apex \ˈā-peks\ *n.* 1 **a:** the uppermost point: VERTEX (the ~ of a mountain) **b:** the narrowed or pointed end: TIP (the ~ of the tongue) 2: the highest or culminating point (the ~ of her career) **syn** see SUMMIT.

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the views of the collective.

that i had just stated. Being a lesbian for me is not about being a victim. I lived a life of fear, pain, lies and humiliation when i was fucking men, not as a lesbian. Unfortunately, i was unable to get through again and couldn't confront him on his patronizing misogynist shit on the air. So i am doing it here. It is important to confront spokespeople when they lie about and oppress the people they are supposed to represent.

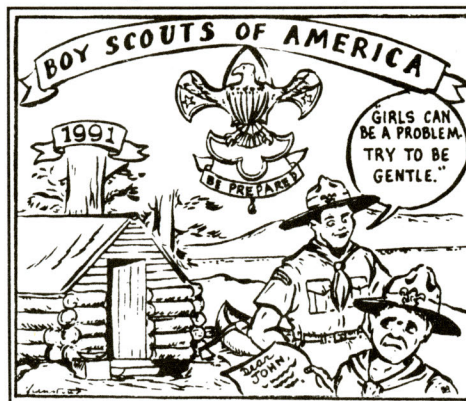
I want to know how this white professional gay man gets to be a spokesperson for the lesbian and gay community when he not only refuses to acknowledge and represent some lesbians, but he denies what we say when we are allowed to speak for ourselves.

Not unlike the experiences i had with my brothers growing up in an atomic family with xian amerikkkan values, experiences with gay brothers like Larry Bliss, reconfirm the wisdom of my choice to be a lesbian separatist and leaves me wondering how other lesbians can experience this prick as an ally.

Ana R. Kissed

Beware of Article Ten

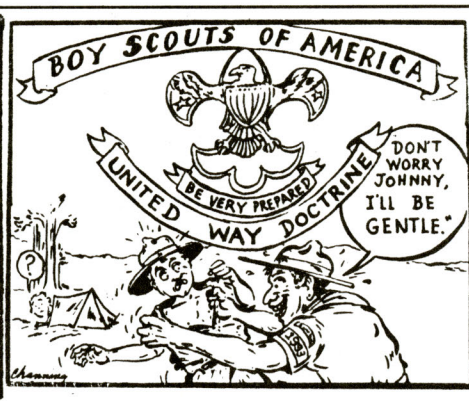
A few months ago, someone came running into the restaurant I was waitressing in holding a newspaper and



Commentary from Article 10. See editors' note

screaming, "Have you seen this? What a horrible newspaper!" It is entitled *Article Ten - Maine's Only Conservative Paper*. That particular issue had a two page spread on the Boy Scouts and their policy banning gays. There was a cartoon accompanying the article that had a picture of a Boy Scout leader and an obviously frightened child. The caption read "Don't worry Johnny, I'll be gentle." The article itself slammed the United Way on their decision to "defund" the BSA and urged people to take their money out

of the United Way as fast as possible. The article also cheered the BSA on to continue their policy and to stand proud, because what they're doing is right. There were myriad articles along



this vein throughout the newspaper - including one where they thought Dale McCormick was a man!

After seeing this newspaper, I brought it to the attention of Lt. Mark Dion, Hate Crimes Division of the Portland Police Department and Steve Kessler, at the District Attorney's office. *Article Ten* is now being investigated. When I see a pile of these newspapers, I bring it to the store's attention and ask them to pull these papers off the shelf. Most

More LETTERS ➤ page 11



photo by Madeleine Winter

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WHERE WE'VE BEEN - an exploration of lesbian and gay history

by Stan Clough

To be a lesbian *and* African-American: this is part of a triple oppression many women have suffered under throughout the history of the United States. But in a world called Harlem in the 1920's, African-American lesbians helped create a unique culture that influences the arts today.

African-Americans had always lived in northern cities like New York from the early 18th Century. But in the period between 1865, when the Civil War ended, and 1930, tens of thousands of Southern African-Americans arrived in the North looking for a better way of life. They did not find it. They were confined to the least-paying jobs: men were paid little - women even less. They were the victims of further racism by the established whites who feared them. African-Americans used music to help carve a niche for themselves in the white-dominated cities. Lesbian artists in turn used music to establish themselves in a heterosexual world.

The lesbians of Harlem opened nightclubs a decade before cities like Chicago and San Francisco. In these clubs the blues, a style that lamented oppression, was sung. Bessie Smith (1894-1937), a lover of women, used the blues to express her sexuality. Her "Down-Hearted Blues" sold 780,000 copies for Columbia Records in 1924. But she did more than just lament the situation of African-American lesbians: alone she once held off a gang of Ku Klux Klan thugs with an axe.

Smith learned the blues from the style's creator: Gertrude Pridgett (1886-1939), who went by her married name Ma Rainey. Rainey adapted the black spirituals and folk songs to what would become a popular new form. She did not miss Pa when he abandoned her; her reaction was expressed in a song that shocked the respectable white middle-class: "Prove It On Me Blues." In it she sang

Went out last night with a crowd of my friends,
They must've been women,
'cause I don't like no men.

Bessie Jackson, another blues-artist, agreed that men were

irrelevant. In her "BD [Bulldyker] Women's Blues," she sang:

Comin' a time, BD women, they ain't goin' to need no men.
Oh, the way they treat us is a low down and dirty thing.

To the straight world, Bessie Smith was a shining star of the Harlem Renaissance, which included musicians Duke Ellington and Ethel Waters, writer Langston Hughes and artist Richmond Barthé. But to lesbian and bisexual women, she represented sexual liberation. Many young lesbians came to Harlem to perform as showgirls with her. They also became her lovers.

One showgirl who went on to greater things was Josephine Baker (1906-1975). Her onstage antics so delighted Harlem audiences that she started her own show. Like Madonna, she enjoyed performing nude, and became the darling of Paris and Berlin lesbians and bisexuals.

Wealthy A'lelia Walker, whose mother had invented a hair-straightening process, was a patron for these young artists. She also, because of her wealth and power, made gay and lesbian sexuality acceptable among Harlem's upper-class. Lillian Faderman argues the working classes also accepted lesbians: marriage licenses were given to lesbian couples in Harlem.

White, middle-class women went to Harlem to explore their sexuality. They may have believed the prevalent racist stereotype that claimed blacks were promiscuous. Many African-Americans felt that the white middle-class believed Harlem was their own personal bordello. They saw armies of straights, gays and lesbians invade Harlem, to do what they could not do in their own neighborhoods.

Nevertheless, Harlem was a pioneer in providing safe spaces for same-sex love in the 20's. In this environment, Bessie Smith, Ma Rainey and others created the music of rebellion long before Stonewall.

Books To Read:

Lillian Faderman. "Harlem Nights," *The Advocate*, March 26, 1991.
Lillian Faderman. *Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers*.
Eric Garber. "A Spectacle of Color: The Lesbian and Gay Subculture of Jazz Age Harlem," in *Hidden From History*. ▼

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NEW!



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NO BUSINESS AS USUAL - this month in local activism

by Bee Bell

After consuming my breakfast of 75 pounds of human feces, sexing up 14 or 15 godless commie Girl Scouts, and banking my weekly \$1500 paycheck from ACT UP, I made my way over to the Augusta Civic Center on 3/24. There, about 500 of us queers, Bible-toters, legal and religious hot-shots and fellow travellers were checking out the Judiciary Committee hearing on Maine's gay rights bill. It reminded me of a baseball game. We walked by men wearing bright (latent?) pink "Repent-God's real mad" sandwich-style signs and took our seats in the bleachers. We all had our pennants. Mine said "Pass LD 246," my friend's said "What causes heterosexuality?", and the het-supremacists had ones like "No more taxpayer-funded safe sex parties" and "It's not fair! Why should the rich get minority status?" Throughout the seven-hour hearing, people went back and forth to get snacks from the concession stand, which was open for business. We watched the two sides trade ground, inning after inning.

A lot of it one had heard before. Religious crapola, cops and politicians who said we're just like them (since when?) so we're okay, brave queer people telling it like it is. As one priest blithered on about morality 'n' shit, someone finally broke the tedium: "Which one of us here is *truly* without sin?" he intoned to the committee, reaching a high point of his speech, "Which one?!" "Me" some cute dyke declared, smiling from the bleachers. Glorious!

The committee later passed the bill, and by 4/13 both chambers of the legislature had passed gay rights for Maine by a strong margin for the first time in history: groovola.

Since Gov. Jockstrap McKernan plans a veto -in a fit of superdemocratic ardor he just hasn't exhibited toward any other issue, McStrap thinks this one oughtta go to the people in a referendum - pro-queers have planned a nightly candlelight vigil at his Blaine House and a 4/17 rally to show that the veto ain't in order.

Meanwhile, good and bad AIDS legislation made its way to the legislature's Human Resources Committee on 4/14. On the Needle Bill, a progressive one that would cut down on HIV spread through needle sharing by removing the IV needle prescription requirement, prospects are good. Counselors, street educators and former addicts who now have AIDS spoke eloquently in favor of the bill. The scant and inept testimony against the bill included a Portland cop and a rep of Lewiston police chief Larry Gilbert, who sits on Equal Protection Lewiston's steering committee. Even Jasper Wyman came to testify against it, but changed his mind midstream (thus showing, as we suspected, that there is only one person whose decision counts in

the Christian Civic League). But Dewey Martin of the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency really took the cake. His argument



photo by Annette Dragon

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CENSORSHIP CLOUDS *SUN-JOURNAL*

by Don Plourde

On April 6, *Lewiston Sun-Journal* subscribers gathered in front of the newspaper's headquarters in Lewiston, Maine to protest the paper's decision not to carry the comic strip "For Better

or For Worse" because it was dealing with a gay storyline. The protesters carried posters and handed out photocopies of the strip with a bold red CENSORED across the front. The *Sun-Journal* is one of 53 newspapers of over 1,400 nationally that chose not to run the strip during the sequence dealing with a 17 year old boy announcing that he is gay. In a March 29 statement, *Sun-Journal* publisher James Costello said the paper's management removed the strip "dealing with homosexuality" because it "feels very strongly that the comic pages are intended to be light reading, an escape from the many problems and cares of daily living. We intend to protect our comics from politicization from whatever part of the spectrum and from becoming a vehicle for social change."

Letters to the *Sun-Journal's* editor have been heavily critical of the newspaper. Not just people in favor of Lewiston's controversial anti-discrimination ordinance are complaining. "I

action, we no longer wish to associate ourselves with the *Sun-Journal*....It is ludicrous to suggest that a depiction of a gay teenager in a cartoon promotes homosexuality or makes children the

target of the gay agenda." Pulling the strip "promotes the chronic low self-esteem and suicidal tendencies so common among gay teenagers."

One reader wrote, "Thank you, *Sun-Journal*, for contributing to the fear, loneliness, isolation and disproportionately high rate of suicide among kids who know in their hearts that they are different long before anyone else does."

At presstime, the protesters had no intention to give up.

"We've been getting from three to 16 people every day. Originally we were planning three to four people for four days, but this thing has taken on a life of its own," said Anne Perron of Citizens Against Censorship. "Reactions from passersby have been overwhelmingly positive." ▼



photo by Annette Dragon

am against gay rights....I just want my comic strip back" wrote one reader.

Other readers saw it quite differently, however. Students from St. Dominic's Regional High School (Lewiston Catholic High) who write for the *Sun-Journal's* weekly high school supplement wrote "until we see an apology for your offensive and outrageous

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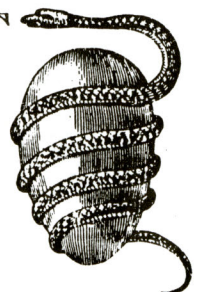
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More LATEX from page 1

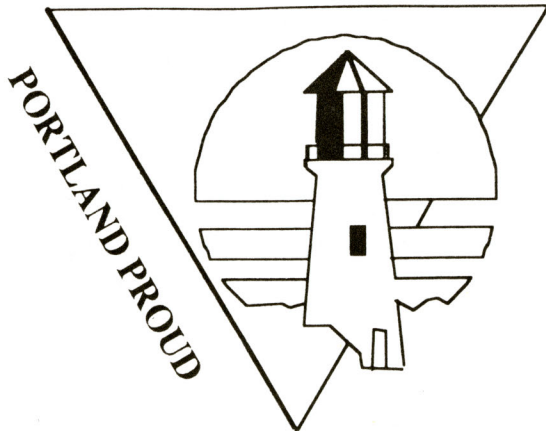
Since Maine parents and school administrators tend not to admit that teens have sex, let alone queer sex, it has taken the state far too long to get the picture: we have a teen AIDS epidemic. Along with straight women, teens are where the pandemic is heading in the US. In Maine, nearly a third of new cases of AIDS are those of people in their 20s - most having contracted HIV in their teens, and early 20s.

But teen activity against AIDS is firing through the state. Massabesic High School in Waterboro is setting up its first written AIDS curriculum, with passionate student backing. Meanwhile, students and a few teachers at Portland's Waynflete School are already working toward a latex availability plan. And hundreds of students at Edward Little High in Auburn petitioned their school committee on 4/7 for condom machines in Auburn high and middle schools. While the committee remains skeptical and undecided, the school nurse backed up the students with intense testimony. And the Portland schools' advisory committee on sexuality education received a Deering and Portland High School student petition on 4/12 demanding condoms and latex barriers in both schools - the petition began at an ACT UP Condom Crusade to the high schools.

ACT UP/Portland, which is funded by Haymarket People's Fund to do organizing work with teen AIDS activists in Maine, has seen two teen groups rise up in southern Maine so far. TASL, Teen Actions Save Lives (in Kennebunk), began in 1992 with die-ins, condom handouts and marches on George Bush with ACT UP. A few confrontations and a unanimously anti-condom school board meeting later, TASL has just put on its first day-long, student-designed AIDS assembly for all KHS seniors. The assembly will be a permanent fixture of the Kennebunk curriculum. TASL plans more for the long run, starting with a name change to STAR: Students Take Active Resistance. And Teen Awareness Prevents AIDS (TAPA), a Thornton Academy group in Saco, held a condom distribution and on 4/16 a huge student walkout after their headmaster's cavalier rejection of their proposal for latex availability and comprehensive HIV education in the school. "You're well on your way to a confrontation!" he told them at the time. Forty students were socked with five days' suspension for the walkout. Senior TAPA member Robyn Sincyr described the day: "The headmaster heard about the walkout, so he started talking with us...Once he found out we called the media, he called us into his office right away. 'I feel like I'm being held hostage,' he said.

"I got a kick out of it." ▼

PORTLAND PRIDE '93 SUNDAY, MAY 16



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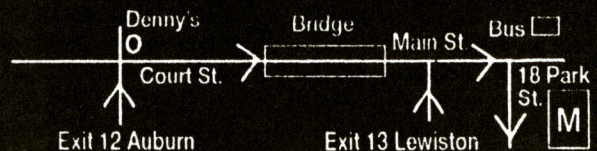
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ASK THIGHMASTER - advice with holes

Dear Thighmaster:

Here's my problem: I am a student (university level), and I find I get totally crushed out on my professors - assuming, of course, they're the appropriate (same) sex. I'm really turned on by the idea of intellectual mastery.

I know there are some pretty bad words for this condition. One I learned in school is "transference." One I picked up somewhere else is "starfucking." But then, there are some pretty bad words for all of us, and I'm getting really hot. Is that so wrong?

Teacher's Pet

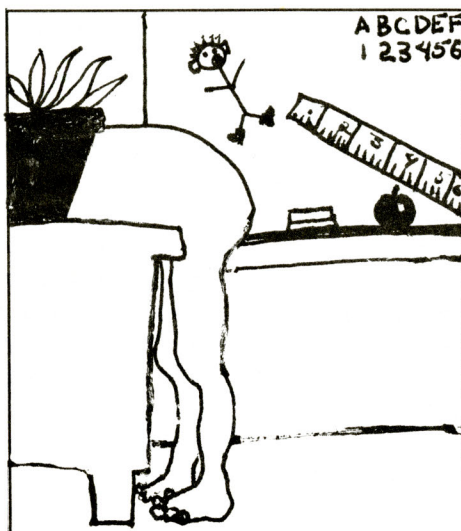
Dear Pet:

Thighmaster hates to get you even hotter by doing the teacher thing on your letter, but "awk" and "imprecise phrasing" need to be red-inked into the margins next to your last sentence. To what does "that" refer? Is what so wrong: starfucking your teachers or getting hot over them? If Thighmaster were the strictest of intellectual masters, you'd get this back for a rewrite, but Thighmaster will merely give you a "B+" and answer both questions in order: Yes. No. Thighmaster prefers to validate every transgressive taboo-busting act, but not this one. Like every taboo, this one is backed up by some dubious cultural prohibitions and prejudices - like the tendency to think of all university students as children, like the idea (applied whenever the student is of traditional "college age") that cross-generational sex is by definition perverse, sick, abusive, and initiating a quick descent into therapyville. But the taboo itself is a good one. Teachers have institutional power over you - your grades, your

future. O.K., so maybe your teacher won't grade you on your sexual prowess, or screw you on your recommendations if the ivory tower's thrust stops lubricating you before the prof is ready to return you to the back of the class. But why risk it, especially when there's a much safer way to get teacher-starfucked: work it at another school (a more

productive kind of "transfer-ence" than Freud ever thought of), or go for guest lecturers. Sure, this scenario lacks the slow sweet buildup of tortured desire in 50-minute timeslots three days a week, the delicious frenzy of those nights when you're frantically trying to come up with legitimate-sounding reasons to visit "office hours," and the high pleasure of fantasizing about doing it after hours in your very own classroom. But when the prof turns out to be a sick wacko, don't you want to be able to storm into the prof's apartment and smash all those trinkets acquired on oh-so-intellectually-chic "oppression-documenting" trips to Central America without having to worry that your days of rage will wreck your GPA?

But before you pack your lunchbox and trot off to a neighboring school, several warnings are in order. First, don't presume that intellectual mastery translates into sexual mastery. The fact that people are intellectual tops does not mean that they can, or that they want to, top you sexually. In fact, don't assume that intellectual skill translates into sexual skill of any kind **whatsoever**. Professors have spent decades being trained in an educational system that rewards you for folding your hands on your desk, away from those tempting body parts. Why do you think so much academic writing about that fashionable topic "the body" is so unsexy to read - because some professors have been



drawing by Naomi Falcone

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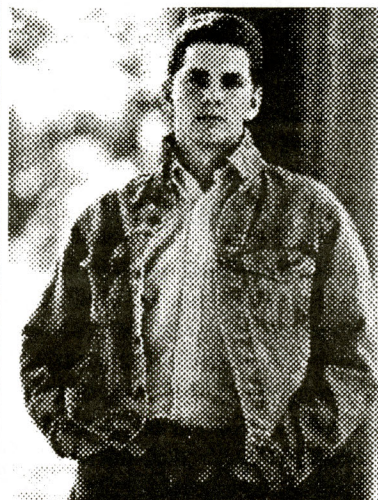
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so brainwashed by that "life of the mind" crap that the only way they can deal with sex is by writing about it. Get a clue: most profs, especially those who teach sex/gender theory, are duds in the sack. Second, if you do find a professor who turns out to be sexually as well as intellectually stimulating, don't presume that this professor will be as turned on as you are by the teacher/student starfuck scenario. Being personally removed from the halls of academe, Thighmaster, always eager to submit to experts, consulted a professor about your situation, and got the following mouthful: "How come professors never get to take a break from their jobs? I'll admit that playing 'break the teacher-student taboo' is hot hot hot, once in a while. And on the occasional evening, I love to turn some corrupting nubile student-type from elsewhere over my office desk. But when I'm sick of my job, I'm not turned on by getting done to the tune of 'Teach me Tonight' relentlessly hummed from kiss to cigarette, or by having 'Oh, Dr. Queerprof' murmured in my ear just as I've managed to forget the stack of 50 ungraded papers in the next room, or by listening to yet another feeble attempt to make a sex joke out of the phrase 'let me clean your chalkboard.'" So once you've got that prof under your thumb, think twice before you actually tell your starfuck about how turned on you are that it's a professor who's screaming in ecstasy in the passenger seat of your car. And if you want to get paddled with a ruler every time, you might do better with a cop, who'd probably kill for a break from "get out your handcuffs and nightstick and pretend you stopped me for speeding, and there's only one way I can convince you not to write me up" - and who, consequently, seems much more likely to think that 6,000 variations on "pretend you're Sister Immaculata and I'm in 6th grade, and I've been very, very bad..." might actually constitute time off for good (and bad) behavior.

Thighmaster eagerly awaits your submissions. No problem too complicated or twisted! Thighmaster, c/o Phoenix Press, PO Box 4743, Portland, ME 04112. ▼



Maine's Largest Selection of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Titles



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CALENDAR . . .

SATURDAY 5/1

Highlands Inn 10th Anniversary Party. Dinner and dancing. Join us for the weekend. \$25/person + room. FMI ☎ (603) 869-3978.

MONDAY 5/3

Seacoast Gay Men first Merry Mother's Day Potluck Party. Unitarian Church, Portsmouth, NH at 7pm. FMI ☎ AI (603) 898-1115.

SATURDAY 5/8

Country road biking and potluck (Women of the Woods). Biking at 1pm, potluck at 4pm. Plan for summer activities. FMI ☎ Holly or Cheri (802)229-0109.

The HIV Summit to discuss critical HIV/AIDS issues in Maine and develop an action plan. 10am - 4pm, Universalist Church, 69 Winthrop St., Augusta, ME. FMI ☎ ACT UP (207) 828-0566 or Maine AIDS Alliance (207) 621-2924.

Chiltern Mountain Club open house for outdoor enthusiasts. Hike at Vaughan Island, Kennebunkport, ME, followed by potluck & slide show. FMI ☎ Steve (207) 985-3604.

Maine Gay Men's Chorus performs at Corthell Concert Hall, USM - Gorham. FMI ☎ write to MGMC, POB 10391, Portland, ME 04104.

MONDAY 5/10

Open Door City Coalition Gay rights meeting. Meet officials and committee members. Seacoast Gay Men, Unitarian Church, Portsmouth, NH at 7pm. FMI ☎ AI (603) 898-1115.

THURSDAY 5/13

Celebrate the 1st Anniversary of Portland's Equal Protection

Amendment, and Matlovich's 2nd anniversary. Steve Endean speaks on *Into the Mainstream*, a first-hand account of 20 yrs. of lesbian/gay rights progress. Refreshments. Matlovich Soc., Rines Aud., Portland Library, Portland, ME, 7:30-9pm, wheel chair accessible.

SATURDAY 5/15

Ann Reed performs at First Parish Church, 425 Congress St., Portland, ME. 8pm. \$15/ res. seats, \$10.50/adv., \$12/ door. FMI see ad in this issue.

Lambda Women-only dance at Pat's Peak, Henniker, NH. FMI ☎ (603) 352-6741.

An evening in gay Paris! Benefit for Outright Vermont. Dancing, cabaret, photos, prizes, desserts & non-alcoholic drinks. 8pm, Burlington, VT City Hall. Tix: sliding scale \$10-20. FMI ☎ (802) 865-9677.

MAW's Cafe welcomes area Lesbians to our 1st dinner. 6:30pm, United Church of Christ, 23 Central Sq., Keene, NH. \$8.50 includes dinner, performance, door prizes! Reservations must be received by 5/10. FMI ☎ Shelly (603) 352-6741.

RAGLC Spring Dance at Camp Thorpe, Goshen, VT, 8pm. FMI ☎ (802) 773-4195.

SUNDAY 5/16

Portland Pride '93. Center Stage 4pm Congress Square, parade 5pm Congress St., party 6pm Ordinance Anniversary Mariner's Church, Fore & Moulton Sts., Portland, ME. Vendors, Volunteers, FMI ☎ (207) 871-0432.

MONDAY 5/17

Bee Bell, activist journalist, talks about the homophobic closet

gay at Seacoast Gay Men, Unitarian Church, Portsmouth, NH at 7pm. FMI ☎ AI (603) 898-1115.

SATURDAY 5/22

BBQ/Marathon Land Rover croquet contest with Women of the Woods, Williamstown, VT. Bring dish to share and something to grill. Rain date Sun. 5/23. FMI ☎ Holly or Cheri (802) 229-0109.

NH Gay Parents family outing Canobie Lake Park, Salem, NH. Noon. FMI ☎ (603) 527-1082.

MONDAY 5/24

Sarah Luiz, America's famous transsexual discusses her/his sexuality and identity at Seacoast Gay Men, Unitarian Church, Portsmouth, NH at 7pm. FMI ☎ AI (603) 898-1115.

THURSDAY 5/27

Dr. Gwendolyn O'Guin, Family practitioner serving the lesbian, bisexual, and gay community in Portland, leads a discussion on *Lesbian Health Issues*. Matlovich Soc., Rines Aud., Portland Library, Portland, ME, 7:30-9pm, accessible.

FRI. 5/28 - SUN. 5/30

Highlands Inn murder mystery weekend. Guests will assume roles of suspects, murderers, victims and everyone plays detective. Includes dinner. \$25/person + room. FMI ☎ (603) 869-3978.

FRI. 5/28 - MON. 5/31

20th Annual Maine Lesbian/ Gay/Bisexual Symposium XX at Unity College, Unity, Maine. A weekend full of workshops, speakers, dancing, games and more. Keynote speakers are Joan Nestle and John Calvi. Joan Nestle is the founder of

the Lesbian Herstory Archives. John Calvi will lead a workshop for men on "Finding Intimacy in the Age of AIDS." A coffee house will be held Friday night. Artwork and crafts will be displayed all weekend. FMI ☎ (207) 469-7916, or write to Kathy Stadig, RR 2, Box 128, Verona, ME 04416.

SATURDAY 5/29

RAGLC tag sale in Brandon, VT. FMI ☎ (802) 773-4195.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Seeking submissions of poetry, letters, prose, etc. written to or for those who have died from AIDS (or are HIV +) for a book called *I Never Said Goodbye to Nat*. Profits will go to AIDS organizations. Please send submissions to: Mary R. Sanders, The Nat Foundation, POB 308, Briarcliff, NY 10510.

FESTIVALS

Springfest Maine '93 - 2nd Annual N.E. Festival for Womyn. 6/10-13. FMI/registration ☎ (207) 743-2787. PJ Productions.

4th Annual Northampton Lesbian Festival. 7/23-25, Swift River Inn, Cummington, MA. FMI ☎ WOW Productions, 160 Main St., Northampton, MA 01060, (413) 586-8251

MEDIA

WMPG'S Women's Music Fest on 90.9 FM 3-5pm Sundays.

KGAY is on the air! This gay-owned radio station is broadcasting via satellite on Galaxy 5, transponder 6, at 6.3 & 6.46 mhz, or on Spacenet 3, transponder 22, at 6.2 & 7.4 mhz. FMI ☎ KGAY studio - 1-800-733-5429; office - 1-800-758-6642.

NOTICES

Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance announces our second year of scholastic awards for deserving Maine high school students. The \$500 (minimum) award(s) are open to **ANY** Maine high school student who has been accepted by a university, college, or vocational technical school. Donations and requests for qualification guidelines can be sent to: ML/GPA Scholarship Committee, 18 Summer St., Augusta, ME 04330. Deadline for submissions is 5/15/93.

Equal Protection Lewiston (EPL) desperately needs your support in time and money. Please send donations to POB 7804, Lewiston, ME 04243-7804. FMI ☎ (207) 784-5818 (fax (207) 777-3299). And please come to a meeting to find out what you can do. EPL meets every other Monday in the Lewiston Multipurpose Center.

Club EX Network, an international home exchange & hospitality club with 120 members worldwide, has established a toll free number for info in the US. This service helps vacationers by providing free housing and encourages cultural exchange between gays/lesbians of different countries. Yearly membership fee. Confidential. FMI ☎ 1 (800) 787-0010 or write Doug Rattray, Club EX Network, POB 101, London SW12 OPR, UK (Tel/Fax +44/81 675 6195).



More LETTERS from page 3

of the owners (and employees) don't have a clue about what the contents of *Article Ten* is about, and I am often thanked for bringing it to their attention (they usually thank me as they are throwing this waste of paper into the trash).

The next time you see an *Article Ten* check it out, and ask the store to throw them away and say no to the people distributing them in the future. It's one more way to make Maine a tolerant, safe place to live.

Terry

Ed. Note: While homophobia is obvious in the second frame of the cartoon (and no distinction is made between homosexuality and pedophilia), we find the first frame as horrifying as the second; the implication is that women are considered valid victims. The only difference is in who is being victimized.

Dear APEX,

I find it necessary to respond to Alexander Wallace's letter in the April, 1993 issue. Mr. Wallace needs to be careful in the future in his use of lan-

guage, i.e. the term "welch." The term, which means "to cheat" or "to fail to make payment," derives from the ridiculous notion that the people of Wales, the *Welsh*, cheat on their payment of debts. My Grandpa Clough always paid his debts in a timely fashion. This should help to dispel these racist stereotypes, just as should the fact my Grandmother Mullin, who entered this country from Ireland through Ellis Island, never touched a drop of alcohol in her life.

You see, stereotypes *do* hurt. As gays and lesbians, we should be acutely sensitive to this fact.

Proudly Queer, Welsh
and Irish,
Stanwyn S. Clough

Ed. Note: The following letter was originally sent to the Lewiston Sun Journal. See page 6 for related article.

To the Editor,

As a relatively recent subscriber, I have read with growing dismay the subjective and controversy-seeking style of coverage in your newspaper. I have had to read articles and editorials with a jaundiced eye, as

accuracy and facts are usually sacrificed to conform to the narrow views of your editorial policies, and to what you perceive to be the attitudes of your readership. After all, every newspaper has to have an identity and yours has historically been composed with the lowest common denominator in mind. Your message has always been consistent, albeit, repressive and self-serving. At least the comics were free of irksome editorial meddling (or so I thought). Your ill-considered notion (it obviously did not reflect any actual thought), to remove the strip, "For Better or For Worse," one of the more enlightened and thoughtful comics, to save your gentle readers from the nasty homos, deserves a more tangible response from me and my family. And, as much as we also enjoyed your tasteful front page depiction of a crucified Easter bunny, we have decided to forego the daily irritation that is *The Lewiston Sun-Journal*. Please cancel our subscription.

Sincerely,
Jessie Doerr

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HAYWIRE - Louise, the Morning After

The following is reprinted, with permission, from Diseased Pariah News #7.

We've picked on Louise Hay a lot around here at DPN. For those readers who don't know much about her, or wonder why she's one of our favorite targets, here's why: her philosophy is fucked. I could say "misguided," or "extreme," but that wouldn't do it justice.

Louise Hay is, of course, the creator of countless self-help books, audio tapes, and coloring books that tell us we're in control of ourselves. "We create every so-called 'illness' in our body." You thought parasites caused scabies? No, it's probably "infected thinking." In Louise's world, blackheads are caused by anger, baldness is caused by fear and tension, and bladder problems come (of course!) from being pissed off.

"We are each 100% responsible for all our experiences," sez Louise. This keystone of New Age philosophy is said to be empowering, liberating, rejuvenating, and so on. But does it hold water? If a meteor crashes into my house, am I 100% responsible? Is my roommate also responsible? Louise Hay can't be bothered with such inquiry; critical thought ain't her long suit.

A sense of 100% responsibility implies that getting sick represents failure. A frustrating thought to be sure, but not to worry; it's perfectly possible to hold that belief without being upset at yourself for having failed. Remember, you have complete control over your thoughts in the New Age.

To Louise Hay, there is truly no limit to what we are responsible for. We choose our parents, for example. "Each one of us decides to

incarnate upon this planet at particular points in time and space." Birth defects are karmic in origin, she says. No evidence, no explanation - you just gotta believe.

There are no accidents, Louise tells us. It is surely no accident that Louise Hay books are lacking any credible arguments to back up her metaphysical assertions. But hey, the New Age isn't about splitting hairs. Why waste your energy being skeptical when you could be healing yourself with affirmations?

Louise Hay has special words for gay people. She says that because we've been told for so long that we're bad, we can't help but think bad thoughts. Artfully suggesting her conclusion, she adds "It is not surprising that gay men were amongst (sic) the first to experience the dread disease, AIDS." She then chides us for being preoccupied with beauty and youth, and continues: "Because of the ways gay people often treat other gays, for many gay men the experience of getting old is something to dread. It is almost better to die than to get old. And AIDS is a disease that often kills." The conclusion, again only implied, is that AIDS is appropriate for gay men, given our bad attitudes.

This talk is the rankest of garbage. You get infected with HIV when it's introduced into your bloodstream. The universe didn't single out gay men for a tailor-made disease because of their thoughts. Louise Hay is on a par with fundamentalists who insist that AIDS is God's punishment for homosexuality - except that the fundies have the balls to say it explicitly, and Louise Hay carefully leaves her embarrassing conclusions unstated.

Don't get me wrong - I'm fully convinced that my mental state has a tremendous influence on my health. However, my concept of mental health does not include believing simplistic drivel.

What's more, Louise Hay books are torturous to read. They're strangely devoid of wit, and I have real problems trusting any purported spiritual leader who doesn't have a good sense of humor. Louise Hay talks *about* humor - she tells us it's good - but she doesn't say anything funny. She blows every opportunity; think of the

fun she could have had with an explanation of what causes hay fever. (But no, it's "Emotional congestion. Fear of the calendar. A belief in persecution. Guilt.")

Louise Hay doesn't speak well of medical doctors. She says they treat only the symptoms of illness, not the causes. This is surely true in many cases, but if you relied just on Louise Hay books, you'd have a hard time knowing where doctors are useful and where they aren't. If I had rabies, I'd rather have it treated with drugs than repeat Louise Hay's recommended affirmation. A truly holistic approach to health care looks for valuable techniques from all sources.

However, it's hard to be wrong about everything, and Louise Hay has some things of merit to say. You don't need her books, though; I'll summarize the good points here. Don't harbor anger, resentment, fear, or guilt. Work to transcend your perceived limitations. Love yourself. Don't get stuck thinking about the past. Listen to what your body tells you. Eat well. Don't lie to yourself, and remember; the New Age is neither. ▽ -T.A.

To subscribe to DPN, send \$10 (US\$12 Canada, US\$20 int'l) to FOG Press, c/o Men's Support Center, PO Box 30564, Oakland, CA 94604.

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More BUSINESS from page 5

against the bill was that needles are involved in drug use, and therefore, their availability without prescription will increase drug use and general crime. Two committee members grilled repeatedly on this: "How exactly can over-the-counter needles create new drug users?", they asked. "IV needles are used in most cases of heroin use, so - uh - we think needles facilitate drug use," he said, six or seven times. "No, I have no statistics on that."

The Dracula Bill (LD1002) to promote uninformed, uncounseled, and non-consensual HIV testing faced various forms of opposition. ACT UP held a mock Blood Drive at the State House; following the language of the bill, activists divided into "low risk" people who were blindfolded (no counseling) and "high risk" people who were handcuffed (no prior consent) and Dracula doctors took their blood with huge syringes for HIV testing. After the street theater, ACT UP joined a slate of others at the bill's hearing. Dr. Karen Kallustian, known for her work with people with AIDS, gracefully

nailed the bill. "I've had a number of needle stick injuries with HIV positive and HIV negative patients, so I know what this is about. But I don't see anything helpful in this legislation."

One of the idiot medicos testifying for the bill from the Maine Medical Association was laughed down when he tried to deny that the bill allowed any non-consensual HIV testing.

The MMA,

which wrote, backed, and lobbied for the classist and homophobic bill, has not made many friends in the queer community this season.

I READ THE POOR GUY WRONG: Several readers have pointed out that Guy Gannett Publishing Co. (of Channel 13 fame and *Portland Press Herald* infamy) is NOT the same McCoy as ghastly Gannett Enterprises, which owns various tabloids from coast to coast. Also, Paula Aboud points out that the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance has awarded queer press in the past. Cool, but I still say Guy's grimy and PPH editor George Neavoll is a wimp whose idea of a tough editorial stance is "School's Open - Drive Slow." ▼

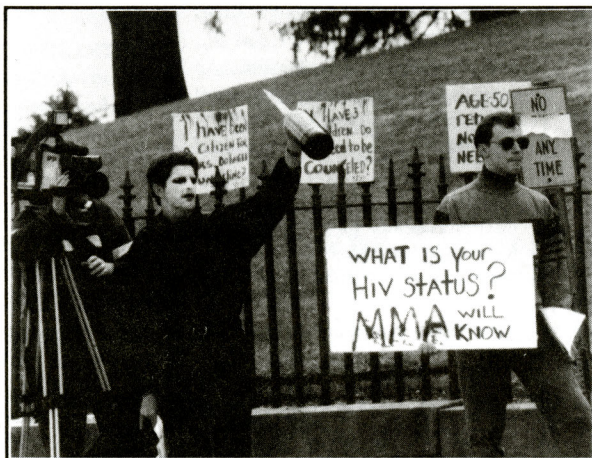


photo by Annette Dragon

P, A, S, S, A, G, E, S,

Alfred M. Butts, who as a jobless architect in the Depression invented the enduringly popular board game Scrabble, died April 4 at the age of 93.

Although its sales eventually approached 100 million sets, Scrabble languished for nearly two decades, rejected by major game manufacturers as unmarketable. Butts designed the new game to be based on knowledge, strategy and chance. He lined the original playing board into small squares and cut the 100 lettered tiles by hand.

The first players were Mr. Butts, his wife, Nina, and their friends. Mrs. Butts was better at the game than her inventor spouse. Once she scored 234 points for "quixotic."

Although Mr. Butts had invented a word game, he was stumped in naming it. He tried Lexiko, Criss Cross Words and simply It. But the big companies weren't buying it, under that or any other name.

The game was relegated to a novelty for a few hundred friends until one of them, James Brunot, retired from his day job in 1948 and volunteered to make and sell the game. He coined the catchy Scrabble label, but the little enterprise still lost money, producing a few dozen sets a week.

Suddenly, in 1952, a vacationing Macy's executive saw Scrabble played at a resort, and the world's largest store began carrying it. Orders started pouring in. Thirty-five workers hired to churn out 6,000 sets a week could not meet the demand. Finally the operation was turned over to Selchow & Righter, which had rejected the game years before. For many years, Mr. Butts earned royalties, which he said were about three cents a set. "One third went to taxes," he said. "I gave one-third away, and the other third enabled me to have an enjoyable life." - from *New York Times*. ▼

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HOT-LINES

THE AIDS LINE: 1-800-851-AIDS or 775-1267. Questions or concerns re: HIV/AIDS? Call Mon.-Sat. 9am-5pm, Mon. & Wed. eve. until 7:30pm. Always anonymous.

DIAL KIDS, 774-TALK - for lesbian, gay, bisexual & questioning youth under 19 yrs of age.

GAY-LESBIAN PHONELINE, Caribou area: (207)498-2088.

GAY INFO LINE, Concord, NH (603) 224-1686.

INGRAHAM VOLUNTEERS (207) 774-HELP.

PUBLICATIONS

OUT IN THE MOUNTAINS
P.O. Box 177
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R.A.G.
Box 3293
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Quarterly newsletter for women living or vacationing in western ME and Mt. Washington Valley of NH.

SOCIAL GROUPS

AM CHOFSHI - Maine Lesbian/Gay Jewish group, meets monthly. FMI ☎ (207) 874-2970 (Rheatha).

MOUNTAIN VALLEY MEN - Box 36, Center Conway, NH 03813. Social group for gay men from west. ME & east. NH. Potlucks & activities. FMI ☎ (207) 925-1034 (Paul).

OUT AND ABOUT - lesbian social & support group. Meets Mon, 7pm, Portsmouth, NH. For sample newsletter and FMI write OAA, POB 332, Portsmouth, NH 03802-0332 or ☎ (603) 659-2139.

SEACOAST GAY MEN meets Mon. 7pm, Unitarian-Universalist Church, 292 State St., Portsmouth, NH PO Box 1394, Portsmouth, NH 03802. FMI ☎ (603) 898-1115.

TIME OUT - Outdoor recreation and environmental club for lesbians, gay men & friends. Free newsletter lists outdoor sports, instructional and environmentally related events for the NH and ME area. FMI ☎ (207) 871-9940 or SASE to Time Out, POB 11502, Portland, ME 04104.

SUPPORT GROUPS

THE AIDS PROJECT - 22 Monument Square, 5th Fl., Portland, ME 04101 FMI ☎ (207)774-6877 about various support groups in Portland, Auburn/Lewiston & Brunswick, ME areas.

ANDROSCOGGIN VALLEY AIDS COALITION (AVAC) - 70 Court St., 2nd Fl., Auburn, ME. Support grp for people with HIV & their loved ones. Thurs. 7pm. FMI ☎ (207) 786-4697.

CHRONOLOGICALLY ADVANTAGED LESBIANS - Meetings for lesbians over 60 in Vermont. FMI ☎ (802) 658-5510.

CRONES - for women over 40. POB 242, Winooski, VT 05404.

GAY/LESBIAN/BISEXUAL PARENTS GROUP OF MAINE - FMI ☎ (207) 772-4741 (Frank).

L-ACOA/AL-ANON - Lesbian mtg. Tues. 7-8:30 pm, 7 Middle St., Brunswick, ME (behind U.U. Church on Pleasant St. in dntwn Brunswick, opp. public library) FMI ☎ Gail (207) 833-6004.

MAINEBISexualPEOPLE'SNET-WORK, POB 10818, Portland, ME 04104. Our purpose is to affirm in ourselves and others the positive nature of bisexuality and to work toward greater acceptance in the bisexual, gay, lesbian, and straight communities. Support and referral services available.

MIDCOAST MAINE PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF LESBIANS AND GAYS (PFLAG) - 18 Douglas St., Brunswick, ME 04011. Info. & HELPLINE (207) 729-0519 (Sally & Gene). Lit. for & about parents, coming out materials, speakers, contacts with over 300 PFLAG chapters.

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POB 990, Caribou, ME 04736; (207) 498-2088. NLN (founded 1980) serves Aroostook Co. & New Brunswick towns; sponsors social activities, discussion grps and speakers bureau; publishes monthly newsletter & activities calendar.

OUTRIGHT/PORTLAND - Wkly mtg for support, info., fun & special events for gay/lesbian/bisexual/questioning youth under 22 yrs of age, Williston West Church, upstairs chapel, 32 Thomas St., Portland, ME, Fri. 7:30-9:30pm. FMI: Outright, Portland Alliance of Gay & Lesbian Youth, POB 5028, Station A, Portland, ME 04101.

OUTRIGHT/CENTRAL MAINE - Group for lesbian and gay youth 22 & under, meets Fri. 7:30 pm, 1st Unitarian Church, Pleasant St., Auburn, ME. PO Box 802, Auburn, ME 04212 ☎ 1-800-339-4042.

PWA COALITION OF MAINE
377 Cumberland Avenue
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 773-8500

RUMFORD/MEXICO AREA AIDS SUPPORT GROUP - Mon. at Mexico Congregational Church (the "Green Church") 7-8:30pm. Main St., Mexico, ME. FMI☎(207)369-0259.

LIFESTYLES ALLIANCE - meets Fri. Noon at the UNE campus. U. of New England, 11 Hills Beach Rd., Biddeford, ME 04005 FMI ☎ (207) 283-0171 x372.

MERRYMEETING AIDS SUPPORT SERVICES - P.O. Box 57, Brunswick, ME 04011-0057. Provides support group services regarding AIDS & HIV. FMI ☎ (207)725-4955.

OUT FOR GOOD - Lesbian discussion/support grp. Thurs. 7-9pm, 445 Main St., Biddeford, ME. Issues relevant to lesbian lifestyle. Free/\$1 donation requested for room rental. Conf., non-smoking. FMI☎ Bobbi (207)247-3461.

WOMEN'S INCEST AND SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS' GROUP
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POLITICAL

PORTLAND MLGPA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE at law offices, 5th floor, 100 Middle St., Portland, ME FMI ☎ (207) 871-0432.

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AIDS COALITION TO UNLEASH POWER (ACT UP/Portland)
142 High St., #222, Portland, ME 04101; (207) 828-0566; FAX: (207) 828-0566 3*. Meets Sun. 7pm at YWCA (87 Spring St., Portland, ME).

FAR (FEMINISTS AGAINST RAPE)
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GREATER PORTLAND NOW c/o YWCA, 87 Spring St., Ptd, ME 04101, (207) 879-0877 or (207) 871-0618, POB 4012, Portland, ME 04101. Action-oriented group. Speakers/events for the public 4th Tues. of every month.

SPIRITUAL

SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAINS - gay/straight, justice-seeking community meets for worship 2nd & 4th Sundays 5pm, 1st Congregational Church, N. Main St. & Washington St., Concord, NH. Potluck after service. FMI ☎ Jim Bretz (603) 536-4011.

DIGNITY/MAINE - Masses at 1st Parish Church, 425 Congress St., Portland. Entrance in rear of church. Sundays 5:30pm.

INTEGRITY - St. Matthew's Church, 18 Union St., Hallowell, ME. 1st Fri. of the month, 7pm. FMI ☎ (207) 622-6631.

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Saturday, May 15th, 1993

8:00 p.m.

First Parish Church
425 Congress Street
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Ticket Outlets: Amadeus Music and Walkabout - Portland, Macbeans Music Brunswick, JKS Copyprinters - Belfast, Lady Iris - Portsmouth, NH

RESERVED TICKETS \$15.00

Available, only by mail from Wild Iris Productions, until 4/15/93.

GENERAL ADMISSION TICKETS

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